

16  
1643

# DECLARATION OF THE LORDS AND COMMONS ASSEMBLED IN PARLIAMENT,

WITH  
The advice and concurrence of the  
Commissioners of Scotland, to publish their proce-  
dings upon His Majesties Letter, touching  
a Treaty of Peace,

And to declare their resolutions and endeavours, to  
put an end to the unhappy distempers of the King.  
dome, by a safe and well grounded Peace.

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23 Martii, 1643.

Ordered by the Commons in Parliament, that Master Glynn take care for  
the Printing of the Declaration concerning His Majesties Letter for a  
Treaty of Peace; together with an act of this present Parliament, and se-  
verall other Letters, thereunto annexed.

Hen. Elsyng Cler. Parl. Dom. Com.

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LONDON,  
Printed for Edward Husbands, March 29. 1643.

A C E R T



**A Declaration of the Lords  
And Commons assembled in Parliament  
upon His Majesties Letter touching a  
Treaty of Peace.**



EE the Lords and Com-  
mons in this present Par-  
liament assembled, having  
notice given us by the  
Earle of Essex, Lord Ge-  
nerall of the Forces raised  
for the defence of the King  
and Parliament, of divers  
Letters sent unto him by  
the Earle of Forth; And of a writing in Parch-  
ment dated at Oxford, and subscribed by divers  
Lords and Gentlemen inclosed in one of those  
Letters,

Letters, and directed to the said Earle of Essex ;  
 And likewise of an other Letter subscribed by  
 his Majestie, and directed thus, To the Lords and  
 Commons of Parliament assembled at Westmin-  
 ster ; Which by the intimation given by the  
 Earle of Forth in his Letter, wherein it was in-  
 closed, seemed to be intended for the two Houses  
 of Parliament ; all which we have caused to be  
 herewith Printed, Did take the same into our se-  
 rious Consideration, and the rather, because it car-  
 ried with it a rumour and pretence of a Treaty  
 of Peace, which (being accompanied with truth )  
 hath alwayes beene our earnest desires, and shall  
 be our faithfull endeavours to effect. And having  
 truly weighed the same, with the Circumstances  
 thereof, doe find it so farre from any ayme or in-  
 tention to Peace, that under the maske and title  
 thereof, it appeares to bee an endevour to make  
 our unhappy distractions and miseries more last-  
 ing, and the warre more irreconcilable.

For now what the autho<sup>r</sup>s and fomento<sup>r</sup>s of  
 our sad Calamities, from the beginning intend-  
 ed, they have procured to be in substance openly  
 professed ; that is, the overthrow and destruction  
 of this present Parliament, being (under God )  
 the only Basis and support of our Religion and  
 Liberty, and the very Bulwarke betweene us  
 and tyzannie, Popery, and Superstition, which  
 are

are pressing hard to over-run all the three Kingdomes ; And because they foresaw the subversion of this Parliament, would be of a hard digestion with the people, they would first present it under the disguise of Peace ; And therefore his Majestie in his application thereunto must by his Letter deny the freedome and continuance the re-  
of, and make way to the setting up of an other at Oxford, in styling that Convention by the name of the Lords and Commons of Parliament assembled at Oxford, being the same title which is ther-  
in given to the Parliament, and owning this proceeding towards peace to be by their advice ; And then if upon these termes the two Houses entertained this Overture, they have gained an acknowledgement from us of being no Parliament, or at leastwise a Tacite consent of assembly at Oxford, to be in equall condition with us ; But in case this addresse should be rejected, then they would take the advantage thereby to per-  
suade the world, that they at Oxford did labour for Peace, and the Parliament was averse to Peace. And so by this subtile insinuation poison the affections of the people, to make the better way to ruine both Parliament and People.

And therefore that the sincerity of our Actions, and the malice and subtlety of our Adversaries may be the more clearly discovered, we thought

it our duty (with the advice and concurrence of the Commissioners of the Kingdome of Scotland) to publish our proceedings to the Kingdome, and to declare that it hath alwayes beene, and ever shall be our earnest and faithfull endeboours to put an end to the troubles and dangerous distempers of this Kingdome by a happy and well grounded peace; So is it our settled resolution in discharge of the trust reposed in us, never to purchase it with the losse and ruine of our Religion and Liberty, having before our eyes the sad spectacle of that wofull Kingdome of Ireland, which after the expence of so much innocent blood in defence of the Protestant Religion is under the false glosse of Peace, subjeeted and brought under the power of Popery and superstition. And those bloody Rebels having effected their ends in that Kingdome, are brought over hither, to bring us under the same yoke, which upon this occasion we are necessitated to publish. Being now tempted by that specious pretence to acknowledge the dissolution of this Parliament, which had wee assented to, would not only deprive us, and our posterity of the present, but of the hopes and capacitie of any future Parliament. And so at one blow cut in sunder the chiefe support and pillar of our Lawes and Liberties. For what better assuarance can wee have, either of our present or future liberties then

then the Lawes and Statutes of the Kingdome, and what greater obligation can wee expect for the observance thereof then his Majesties Personall consent to that Law, and his sacred and Solemne oath to obserue the Lawes. And yet both these are not thought holds strong enough to secure usour own; Insomuch that not only this present Parliament convened according to Common Law, and usage of the Realm, and enacted by a Law consented unto by himselfe to have conntinuace (and herewith printed) is attempted to be dissolved; But another endeavoured to be set up at Oxford. And if the King notwithstanding all these Obligations shall at his pleasure dissolve this, the Kingdome is not only deprived of the present, but made incapable of enjoying the benefit of any future Parliament, or Lawes, any longer then shall stand with the will and pleasure of the King, and consequently the fundametals of all our Lawes and Government are subverted.

And wee very well know this Designe to be long since contrived at Oxford, as appeareth by the Lord Dibbies intercepted Letter, Dated the twentie seventh of December last ( which wee have caused to bee herewith Printed ) and of such expectation, that hee in that Letter expresseth it, to carry along with it probability of the surest

surest and readiest way, &c. of any course that hath beeene yet taken, knowing very well that the evils and miseries, himselfe and his wicked confederates have brought upon this distressed Kingdome can expect no safety but by attempting more.

And truly they could not thinke of any, more likely to involve themselves in the same guilt, then those Lords and Gentlemen now met at Oxford, who had already contrary to their duty, and the trust reposed in them by their Country, deserted the Parliament, and assited a warre against it, and had there beeene any doubt or suspition of their concurrence in that Designe, the very place of meeting, being the head Quarters of a Popish Army, whose cause they were there to consult of, would be a Rodde sharpe enough to secure them from that feare. And it doth sufficiently appeare that they have answered their expectation, for they have assumed the forme, and exercised the power of a Parliament : They sit in two distinct places, terming the one the House of Peeres, and the other the House of Commons ; And they have made the Lord Littleton, Speaker of that whiche they call the House of Peeres, and Serjeant Eare of the other, which they name the House of Commons.

They

They have granted the summe of 100000. £. for  
the maintenance and recruiting of the Forces raised  
against the Parliament and Kingdome, and have ad-  
vised the same to be levied upon the people in an  
Arbitrary way by Privy Seale, under the colour of  
Loane, which by their consent and pretended Auth-  
ority is accordingly put in execution, as appeareth by  
the Privy Seales themselves, signed by the said  
Lord Littleton and Serjeant Eure, a Copy of one of  
them we have caused to be herewith printed. And  
what is beyond all, and without the power and ca-  
pacity of a Parliament, they have declared another  
Kingdome, and the Parliament it selfe, guilty of  
high Treason, having Voted our Brethren of Scot-  
land, who upon our Injunction, and according to the  
Act of Pacification, are come in to assist us in main-  
tenance of our Religion and just Priviledges; and  
the two Houses, who have raised Forces for their  
owne just defence and the maintenance of their Reli-  
gion and Liberty, Traytors and Rebels.

And now we refer it to any sober and indifferent  
Judgement, whether there can be a higher attempt  
to shake off and cut in sunder all bands of Law and  
Government, and to bring the people under the yoke  
and bondage of an absolute Tyranny then this is.

And we cannot chuse but admire and lament  
that this Kingdome should produce such unnatural  
Monstres, who like vipers to make way for their  
owne safety, would destroy the womb that bare  
them. And because themselves are fully cut off as  
rotten and destructive branches of the representative  
Commonweal

Body of the Kingdome, would therefore pluck up the Tree by the root, and destroy both Parliament and Kingdome. But when we consider the persons this Idoll is composed of, it produceth no great wonder, consisting not onely of such who for betraying the trust reposed in them by their Countrey, and their duty to the Common-wealthe, have bene justly excludid the Parliament. But if the Lord Digby, Percy, Iermyn, and others, who even before these unhappy differences, have bene legally impeached or questioned in Parliament for high Treason, and being convinced in their owne Consciences of the guilt there-of, fled the Kingdome to avoid their Triall, and therefore by Proclamations in his Maesties name, when his Maestie was here present, summoned to appeare to answer to that charge. But our greatest griefe is, That their Councils should so farre prevaile, as to procure his Maestie (under the pretence of Peace) to be their Instrument to an attempt so distuctive to Himselue, Kingdome and People, and to endeavour the consent of the Parlement, to destroy it selfe and their owne Religion and Liberties; an Attempt not to be paralleld by the president of the most pernicious times; and if effected, would in the end prove as dangerous to his Maestie as to the Kingdome, which may be made apparent by the example of some of his Predecessors, unhappily misled by the desperate Councils of private and ill-affected persons which consideration necessitated us to returne his Maestie the Answer herewhich printed, wherein we take the boldnesse, with all humility and plainnesse,

plainnesse, to declare as well the duty we owe to our Country for whom we are intrusted, as the Allegiance we owe to him; and that without apparent breach of both, we could not assent to any Treaty upon the termes expressed in his Maiesties Letter: And likewise to tender unto him our humble Advice of a safe and ready way to put an end to the present sad conditions of his Maiesties Dominions, and we shall never cease by our conciuall and earnest Prayers to Almighty God to implore him, that yet at length he would incline his Royall Heart to be throughly sensible of these unhappy Divisions that have occasioned so much innocent blood to staine the Land, and by hearkning unto the ioint advice of both Kingdomes now happily united in this common Cause by their late solemne League and Covenant, put an happy issue to all these troubles.

This we thought necessary to declare, to the end the world may see as well our owne reall endeavours to attaine a safe and iust Peace, as the indefatigable practices of those Popish and Jesuiticall Councils (the Instruments of all our miseries) who are content to appeare in all shapes, and leaue no meanes unattempted to compasse their owne ends. First, they would habe undermined us by secret practices; then they would have forced us by open Warre; and now they would allure us by the specious pretence of Peace to disabow this Parliament, and our iust Rights and Priviledges; and consequently resigne our selves, Religion, Lawes, and Liberties to the power of Idolatry, Superstition, and Tyranny.

But we are constantly resolv'd, in discharge of  
the duty we owe to our God, the trust reposed in us  
by our Country and our late Solemne Oath and Co-  
venant, with the hazard of our lives and fortunes,  
to defend our lawfull Rights and Liberties, the  
Frædome and Privilidges of this present Parlia-  
ment, and which is above all the true Protestant  
Religion, wherein we shall not doubt but to receive  
the hearty concurrence and assistance of all well affe-  
cted Protestants and true lovers of their Countrey  
and liberty; and the Lord of Hosts whose cause it is  
we stand for, and upon whose assistance we principally  
rely, grant our endeavours a blessed and happy  
successe.

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ANNO



# A N N O X V I I . Caroli Regis.

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An Act to prevent Inconveniences which may happen by the untimely Adjourning, Proroguing, or Dissolving of this present Parliament.

**W**hereas great summes of money must of necessity be speedily advanced and provided for the relief of his Majesties Army and people in the Northern parts of this Realme, and for preventing the imminent danger this King-

Kingdom is in, and for supply of other His Majesties present and urgent occasions, which cannot be so timely effected as is requisite, without credit for raising the said moneys, which credit cannot be obtained, untill such obstacles be first removed as are occasioned by feares, jealousies, and apprehensions of divers His Majesties loyall Subjects, that this present Parliament may be Adjourned, Prorogued, or Dissolved, before Justice shall be dueily executed upon Delinquents, publicke Grievance redressed, a firme Peace betwixen the two Nations of England and Scotland concluded, and before sufficient Provision be made for the repayment of the said moneys so to be raised: All which the Commons in this present Parliament assembled having dueily considered, do therefore humbly beseech your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be declared and enacted;

And be it declared and enacted by the King, Our Soveraigne Lord, with the assent of the Lords and Commons in this present

present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That this present Parliament now assembled shall not be dissolved unlesse it be by Act of Parliament to be passed for that purpose; nor shall be at any time or times during the continuance thereof, Prorogued or Adjourned, unlesse it be by Act of Parliament to be likewise passed for that purpose: And that the House of Peers shall not at any time or times during this present Parliament, be Adjourned, unlesse it be by themselves or by their owne Order: And in like manner, that the House of Commons shall not at any time or times during this present Parliament be Adjourned, unlesse it be by themselves or by their own Order; And that all and every thing and things whatsoever done or to be done, for the Adjournment, Proroguing, or Dissolving of this present Parliament contrary to this Act, shall be utterly void, and of none effect.

Order-

Ordered by the Commons  
assembled in Parliament, That  
the Act of Parliament made in the  
17<sup>th</sup> yeere of His Majesties reigne,  
for the continuance of this present  
Parliament, be printed with the  
Declaration.

H.Elsyng, Cler. Parl. D.Com.

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*The Earl of Forth to His Excellency the Earl of Essex.*

**M**Y Lord, I send you herewith this inclosed packet, direct to your Lordship, from those Lords and members of the House of Commons, as are here assembled at Oxford. I rest

*Your Lordships humble servant,*

Oxon, 29. January, 1643.

F O R T H .

*My Lord, The Inclosed, To the Earl of E S S E X.*

**H**IS Majestie having by His Proclamation of the two and twentieth of December (upon the occasion of the Invasion threatned, and in part begun by some of His Subjects of Scotland) summon'd all the members of both Houses of Parliament to attend him here at Oxford; We whose names are underwritten, are here met & assembled in obedience to those His Majesties commands; His Majestie was pleased to invite us in the laid Proclamation by these gracious Expressions [That His Subjects should see how willing he was to receive advice, for the preservation of the Religion, Lawes, and safety of the Kingdome, and as farre as in him lay, to restore it to its former Peace, and securitie, (His chiefe and onely end) from those whom they had trusted, though he could not receive it in the place where he appointed.] This most gracious invitation, hath not onely been made good unto us, bnt seconded and heighned by such unquestionable demonstrations of the deep and Princely fense which possesses His Royall heart, of the miseries and calamities of His poor Subjects in this unnaturall war, and of His most entire and passionate affections, to redeeme them from that sad and deplorable condition, by all wayes possibly consistent; either with His honour, or with the future safety of the Kingdom, that as it were impiety to

question the sincerity of them, so were it great want of duty and faithfulness in us ( His Majesty having vouchsafed to declare, that he did call us to be witnesses of His actions, and privy to His intentions ) should we not testifie and witnesse to all the world , the assurance we have of the piety and sinceritie of both. We being more intirely satisfied of this truth, we cannot but confess that amidst our highest afflictions, in the deep and piercing fense, of the present miseries and desolations of our countrey, and those further dangers threatned from *Scotland*; We are at length erected to some cheerfull and comfortable thoughts, that possibly we may yet ( by Gods mercy, if his justice have not determined this Nation for it's sins, to totall ruine, and desolation ) hope to be happie instruments of our countreys redemption from the miseries of war, and restitution to the blessings of Peace; And we being desirous to beleeve your Lordship ( how ever engaged ) a person likely to be sensibly touched with these considerations, have thought fit to invite you to that part in this blessed worke , which is onely capable to repair all our misfortunes, and to buoye up the Kingdom from *ruine* ; That is, by conjuring you, by all the obligations that have power upon honour, conscience, or publike pietie, that laying to heart ( as we do) the inwardly bleeding condition of your country, and the outward more menacing destruction by a forraigne Nation, upon the very point of invading it, you will cooperate with us to it's preservation, by truly representing to , and faithfully and industriously promoving with those , by whom you are trusted , this following, most sincere, and most earnest desire of ours. That they joyning with us in a right fense of the past , present , and more threatening calamities of this deplorable Kingdom ; some persons be appointed on either part, and a place agreed on,

to treat of such a Peace, as may yet redeeme it from the  
brinke of desolation.

This addresse we shoulde not have made , but that His Majesties summons by which we are met, most graciously proclaiming pardon to all without exception , is evidenee enough , that His mercy and clemency can transcend all former provocations; And that he hath not onely made us witnesses of His Princely intentions, but honoured us also with the name of being security for them.

God Almighty direct your Lordship, and those to whom you shall represent these our most reall desires , in such a course, as may produce that happy Peace, and settlement of the present distractions , which is so heartily desired, and prayed for by us, and which may make us

*From Oxford Jan. 27. 1643.*

*Your affectionate Friends,*

Charles P.	W: Devonshire
York.	Bristoll
Cumberland	Barkshire
Ed: Littleton Cs:	Cleveland
Tho: Cottington	Peterborough
Richmond	Kingston
Hertford	Henry Dover
Lindsey	Conway
Dorset	George Digby
Shrewsbury	Crumwell
Hen: Bathon	Mowbray & Maltra-
Tho: Southampton	Rivers (vers
J: Carlile	William Paget
Northampton	Howard of Charlton
	C 2 Leicester

Leicester	Wilmot
J: Newport	Chandois
John Lovelace	T: Leigh
Mohun	Ch: Hatton
Portland	Hen: Jermyn
Savile	Rich
Dunsmore	Tho: Wentworth
Seymour	C: Carington.
Percy	

John Fetiplace.	George Parry.
Alex, Denton.	Ambrose Manaton.
John Packington.	Richard Wogan.
Thomas Smith.	John Polwhele.
F: Gamul.	John Arundell.
John Harris.	Thomas Lower.
Joseph Jones.	Edward Hyde.
Richard Edgcumb.	William Allestree.
Jonathan Rashleigh,	G: Stonehouse.
George Fane.	Edward Seymour.
B: Edgcumb.	Peter Sainthill.
William Glanvill.	William Poly.
Robert Holborns.	Roger Hathew.
Ralph Sydenham.	Richard Arundell.
Francis Godolphin.	Robert Walker.

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Giles Strangewayes.  
John Dutton.  
Strangways 1643.  
Henry Bret.  
William Chadwell.  
Thomas Bele.  
Theobald Gorges.  
Ger: Naper.  
John Georges.  
Samuel Turner.  
William Constantine.  
Killigrew. .  
Richard King.  
Thomas Fanshaw.  
Humph: Coningesby  
Richard Seabourn.  
Arthur Ranelagh.  
Thomas Tomkyns.  
Sampson Eure.  
John Culpeper.  
Geoffrey Palmer.  
J: Harrison.  
Thomas Fanshaw.  
Roger Palmer.  
W. Bridgeman.  
William Watkins.

John Smith.  
Thomas Bludder.  
Edward Littleton.  
Henry Bagot.  
Kevelson.  
Richard Cave.  
Richard Weston  
Richard Lee  
Thomas Whitmore  
Edward Acton  
C: Baldwyn  
Richard Goodwyn  
Thomas Howard  
Thomas Littleton  
Ro: Howard  
John Meux  
Matth. Davys  
H: Cornwalleis  
Thomas Jermyn  
John Atler  
William Vassill  
William Fortman  
Edw: Rodeney  
Thomas Hanham  
Edward Phillips  
John Digby

Fillis

Fillis Kyrton  
Chr: Lewkener  
Edw: Alford  
John White  
John Ashburnham  
William Smith  
Thomas Leeds  
J: Thynne  
William Pleydell  
Robert Hyde  
Edward Griffin  
Walter Smith  
George Lowe  
Richard Harding  
Henry Herbert  
Endymion Porter  
Sam: Shandys  
John Bodrell

(22)  
W: Thorgan  
William Thomas  
John Martin  
Hen: Belasyse  
George Wentworth  
William Malory  
Richard Aldburgh  
John Salisbury  
William Herbert  
William Price  
Jo: Jeery  
R: Herbert  
Charles Price  
Phil: Warwick  
Tho: Coke  
Ro: Croke  
Herbert Prise  
John Whistler:

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*His*

(23)

*His Excellency to the Earl of FORTH.*

**M**Y Lord, I received this day a Letter of the 29 of this instant from your Lordship, and a Parchment, subscribed by the Prince, Duke of York, divers Lords and Gentlemen: But it neither having addresse to the two Houses of Parliament, nor therein there being any acknowledgement of them, I could not communicate it to them.

My Lord, the maintenance of the Parliament of England, and of the privileges thereof, is that, for which we are resolved to spend our blood, as being the foundation whereon all our Laws and Liberties are built.

I send your Lordship herewith a Nationall Covenant, solemnly entred into by both the Kingdoms of England and Scotland, and a Declaration passed by them both, together with another Declaration of the Kingdom of Scotland. I rest

*Your Lordships humble Servant,*  
*Essex house, Jan. 30. 1643.*      E s s e x .

*The Earl of FORTH to his Excellency.*

**M**Y Lord, I cannot so willingly write to you in any businesse, as in that of Peace; The indeavours thereof being the principall duty of those who are trusted in places of our commands, especially when the blood that is spilt, is of persons under the same Allegiance, of the same country and Religion. His Majesty continuing constant in his pious & frequent desires of a happy end to these bloody distractions. I do hereby desire your Lordship to send me a safe Conduct, to and from Westminster, for Mr Richard Fanchaw, and Mr. Thomas Offly, Esquires, to be sent by His Majesty concerning a Treaty for Peace. I rest,

*My Lord, your Lordships humble Servant,*  
*Oxford, 15. Febr. 1643.*      F O R T H .

*His*

*His Excellency to the Earl of F O R T H.*

**M**Y Lord, you shew your noblenesse, in declaring your willingness to write to me in any businesse, as of that of Peace; and I joyn with you in the same opinion, that it ought to be a principall duty of those who are trusted in places of our command: and therfore whensoever I shall receive any directions to those who have intrusted me, I shall use my best indeavours; and when you shall send for a safe Conduct, for those Gentlemen mentioned in your Letter from His Majesty to the Houses of Parliament, I shall with all cheerfulness shew my willingness to further any way that may produce that happiness, that all honest men pray for, which is a true understanding between His Majesty and His faithfull and onely Councell the Parliament.

*Your Lordships humble Servant,*

19. Febr. 1643.

E s s e x .

*The Earl of FORTH to his Excellency.*

**M**Y Lord, I have received your Letter of the 19. of the last Moneth, which, according to my duty, I shewed to His Majesty; who observing in it your Expressions concerning Peace (that whensoever you shall receive any directions to those who have intrusted you, you shall use your best endeavours) is graciously pleased to send this inclosed, which is desired, may be delivered according to the directions. I rest

*Your Lordships humble Servant,*

Oxon, 3. Mar. 1643.

F O R T H .

The inclosed Letter from His Majesty, is thus directed:

**C**HARLES R. To the Lords and Commons of Parliament, assembled at Westminster.



TO THE  
Lords and Commons  
OF  
PARLIAMENT,  
Assembled at  
*WESTMINSTER.*

CHARLES Rex.



Ut of Our most tender and pious fense, of the sad and bleeding condition of this Our Kingdom, and Our unwearied desires to apply all remedies, which by the blessing of Almighty God, may recover it  
D from

from an utter ruine. By the Advice of the Lords and Commons of Parliament, assembled at *Oxford*, We do propound and desire, That a convenient number of fit persons, may be appointed, and authorized by you, to meet (withall convenient speed, at such place, as you shall nominate) with an equall number of fit persons, whom We shall appoint and authorize, to treat of such wayes and means, to settle the present distractions of this Our Kingdom, and to procure a happy Peace; And particularly, how all the Members of both Houses may securely meet in a free and full convention of Parliament, there to treat, consult, and agree, upon such things, as may conduce to the maintenance, and defence of the true Reformed Protestant Religion, with due consideration to all just and reasonable ease of tender consciences, to the settling and maintaining of Our just Rights and Prerogatives, of the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament, the Laws of the Land, the Libertie and Proprietie of the Subject, and all other expedients that may conduce to that

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that blessed end of a firm and lasting Peace, both in Church and State ; and a perfect understanding between Us and Our People, wherein no endeavours or concurrence of Ours shall be wanting. And God direct your hearts in the wayes of Peace.

*Oxford the third of March. 1643.*



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THE





THE  
**L E T T E R**  
SEN T  
By both Houses of *Parliament*,  
In Answer to  
**His Majesties Letter**  
the third of *March*.

*May it please your Majestie.*



WE the Lords and Commons assembled in the Parliament of *England*, taking into our consideration a Letter sent from Your Majestie, dated the third of *March* instant, and directed to the Lords and Commons assembled

assembled at *Westminster* (which by the contents of a Letter from the Earl of *Forth*, unto the **L O R D G E N E R A L L**, the Earl of *Essex*, we conceive was intended to our selves) have resolved with the concurrent advice, and consent of the Commissioners of **S C O T L A N D**, to represent to Your Majestie in all humility and plainnesse, as followeth.

That as we have used all means for a just and safe Peace, so will we never be wanting to do our uttermost, for the procuring thereof: But when we consider the Expressions in that Letter of Your Majesties, we have more sad, and dispairing thoughts of attaining the same, then ever; because thereby those persons now assembled at *Oxford*, who contrary to their duty, have deserted Your Parliament, are put into an equall condition with it. And this present Parliament, convened according to the known Laws of the Kingdom, the continuance whereof, is established by a Law consented unto by Your Majesty, is in effect denied to be a Parliament; the scope

scope and intention of that Letter, being to make provision, how all the Members, as is pretended, of both Houses, may securely meet in a full and free Convention of Parliament; whereof, no other conclusion can be made, but that present Parliament, is not a free, nor full Convention; and that to make it a free, and full Convention of Parliament, the presence of those is necessary, who notwithstanding they have deserted that great Trust, and do levy War against Your Parliament, are pretended to be Members of the two Houses of Parliament.

And hereupon, we think our selves bound, to let Your Majestie know, That seeing the continuance of this Parliament, is settled by a Law ( which as all other, the Laws of Your Kingdoms, Your Majesty is sworn to maintain, as we are sworn to our Allegiance to Your Majesty, ( these Obligations being reciprocall) we must in duty, and accordingly are resolved, with our Lives, and Fortunes, to defend and preserve, the just Rights, and full power of this

this Parliament. And do beseech Your Majestic , That Your Majesties Royall and hearty concurrence with us herein, will be the most effectuall and ready means, of procuring a firm and lasting Peace, in all Your Majesties Dominions , and of begetting a perfect understanding between Your Royall Majestie, and Your People; without which , Your Majesties most earnest Professions , and our most reall Intentions concerning the same , must necessarily be frustrated ; and in case Your Majesties three Kingdoms shall still remain in this sad and bleeding condition, tending by this unnaturall Warre , to their raine , Your Majestie cannot be the least, nor the last sufferer. God in his goodnessse, incline Your Royall Brest , out of pitty and compassion , to the deep sufferings of Your innocent people , to put a speedy and happy end to these desperate evils , by the Joynt advice of both Kingdoms , now happily united in this common cause , by their late solemn League and Covenant ;

which .

which as it will prove the surest remedy, so  
it is the prayer of

Your Majesties Loyall Subjects,

The Lords and Commons  
assembled in the Parliament  
of *England.*



THE







